

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 1, after the title: "**AN IMPROVED SYNTHETIC PANEL AND METHOD**" insert - This is a continuation patent application of copending patent application having Serial No. 09/322,268, filed May 28, 1999. Copending patent application Serial No. 09/322,268 was a continuation patent application of patent application having Serial No. 09/003,747, filed Jan. 7, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 5,943,775. Patent application having Serial No. 09/003,747 was a continuation-in-part of patent application having Serial No. 08/556,265, filed Nov. 13, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,842,276. Benefit of all earlier filing dates is hereby claimed with respect to all common subject matter.

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B2 Page 31, line 9, after "12." insert ~~↓~~ The polymeric foamed material 12 has a pair of opposed ends 12f and 12g (see Figs. 6, 9 and 10).--

B3 Page 32, line 5, delete "The" and substitute therefor ~~↓~~ As best shown in Figs. 20, 21 and 22, the--.

B4 Page 32, line 6, after "30r₁" insert ~~↓~~ having opposed cut surfaces 30r_{1c}-30r_{1c} terminating in the opposed ends 12f and 12g--.

B5 Page 32, line 7, delete "30s" and substitute therefor --30s--.

B6 Page 32, line 8, after "30r₂" insert ~~↓~~ respectively having opposed cut surfaces 30w_c-30w_c, 30f_c-30f_c and 30r_{2c}-30r_{2c}--.

B7 Page 32, line 10, after "12r" insert ~~↓~~ having cut surface 12r_c--.

B8 Page 32, line 14, delete "access" and substitute therefor --recess--.

B9 Page 32, line 14, after "12r" insert ~~↓~~ and respectively against cut surfaces 30r_{1c}-30r_{1c}, and cut surface 12r_c--.

B10 Page 32, line 16, after "30w" insert ~~↓~~ and against cut surfaces 30w_c-30w_c--.

B11 Page 32, line 17, after "30f" insert ~~↓~~ and against cut surfaces 30f_c-30f_c, --.

B12 Page 32, line 17, after "30r₂" insert ~~↓~~ and against cut surfaces 30r_{2c}-30r_{2c}, --.

Page 32, line 17, after "30s." insert ~~↓~~ As further best shown in Figs. 20, 20A and 20B, there is seen a cut surface, generally illustrated as 12cs and including cut surface 12cs₁ (e.g., a defined planar surface 12cs₁) and cut surface 12cs₂ (e.g., a defined planar surface 12cs₂). As best shown in Fig. 20A, web 14f of brace member 14 is generally aligned with cut surface 12cs, more specifically with cut surfaces 12cs₁ and 12cs₂. As will be further indicated hereinafter, if a hot wire (identified as "58" below) is used as a cutter for cutting or forming slot(s) 30 including the associated cut surfaces (e.g., 30w_c-30w_c, 30f_c-30f_c, 30r_{2c}-30r_{2c}, etc.), the cut surface(s) are seared surfaces.--

Page 32, line 31, after "12c." insert ~~↓~~ Each of the polymeric foamed materials 12a and 12b respectively include the following as best shown in Fig. 20B: cut surface 12cs including cut surfaces 12cs₁ and 12cs₂; slot section 30r₁ having opposed cut surfaces 30r_{1c}-30r_{1c}; polymeric material recess 12r including cut surface 12r_c; slot section 30w comprising opposed cut surfaces 30w_c-30w_c; slot section 30f including opposed cut surfaces 30f_c-30f_c; and slot section 30r₂ having opposed cut surfaces 30r_{2c}-30r_{2c}--.

B13 Page 42, line 18, after "12" insert -such as to terminate in the pair of opposed

ends 12f and 12g of polymeric foamed material 12 (see Figs. 10 and 19).--

Page 42, line 19, delete 9 and substitute therefor --10--.

Page 44, line 34, after "ends" insert --12f and 12g--.

B14 Page 45, line 36, before "see" insert -i.e. a surface or a side surface or a defined surface or a defined side surface,--.

Page 46, line 17, after "15." insert -Thus, and as best shown in Fig. 19,

B15 between the formation of two particular adjacent slots 30, the polymeric foamed material opening 15 (including slot 70) was cut; and between the formation of the left extreme slot 30 and right extreme slot 30 in Fig. 19 (or the two opposed slots 30 respectively adjacent to channel 26 and tongue 24 in Fig. 19) the polymeric material opening 15 (including slot 70) along with a slot 30 (i.e. the slot 30 between the left extreme slot 30 and the right extreme slot 30) was cut or formed.--

B16 Page 50, line 14, after "cutters." insert -If hot wires 58 are used as cutters for forming respective slots 30, the walls or cut surfaces (i.e. cut surfaces 30w_c, 30f_c and 30r_{1c}) would be seared surfaces.--

Page 50, line 28, delete "4" and substitute therefor --the--.

Page 53, line 35, delete "125" and substitute therefor --12s--.

Page 53, line 36, after "Fig. 20" insert -, including opposed cut surfaces

B17 30r_{1c}-30r_{1c}--

Page 54, line 3, after "Fig. 20" insert -, including opposed cut surfaces 30w_c-

B18 30w_c--

Page 54, line 7, after "Fig. 20" insert -, including cut surface 12r_c--.

B19 Page 54, line 11, after "Fig. 20" insert -, including opposed cut surfaces

B20 30w_c-30w_c--

Page 54, line 14, after "30r₁" insert -including opposed cut surfaces

B21 30r_{1c}-30r_{1c}--.

Page 54, line 15, after "30s" insert -including opposed cut surfaces 30s_c-

B22 30s_c--

Page 54, line 16, after "12r" insert -including cut surfaces 12r_c--.

Page 54, line 27, after "30r₁" insert + and against opposed cut surfaces 30r_{1c}

B24
and 30r_{1c}--

Page 54, line 28, after "12r" insert + and against cut surface 12r--

Page 54, line 32, after "30s" insert + and against opposed cut surfaces 30w_c

B26
and 30w_c--.

Page 55, line 21, after "Fig. 20" insert +, and respectively including opposed cut surfaces 30w_c and 30w_c and/or including opposed cut surfaces 30r_{1c} and 30r_{1c}--

Page 55, line 35, after "Fig. 20" insert + including opposed cut surfaces 30r_{1c}

B28
and 30r_{1c}--.

Page 56, line 5, after "Fig. 20" insert +, including opposed cut surfaces 30w_c and 30w_c--.

Page 56, line 12, after "Fig. 20" insert +, and respectively including opposed cut surfaces 30w_c and 30w_c and/or including opposed cut surfaces 30r_{1c} and 30r_{1c}--

Page 56, line 16, after "Fig. 20" insert + including opposed cut surfaces 30r_{1c}

B31
and 30r_{1c}--.

Page 56, line 35, after "Fig. 20" insert + including opposed cut surfaces 30r_{1c} and 30r_{1c}--.

Page 57, line 1, after "Fig. 20" insert +, including opposed cut surfaces 30r_{1c} and 30r_{1c} (i.e. seared opposed cut surfaces)--.

Page 57, line 8, after "Fig. 20" insert +, including opposed cut surfaces 30w_c and 30w_c--.

Page 57, line 23, "Fig. 20" insert +, including opposed cut surfaces 30w_c and 30w_c--.

Page 57, line 29, "Fig. 20" insert +, including opposed cut surfaces 30w_c and 30w_c--.

Page 57, line 36, "Fig. 20" insert +, including opposed cut surfaces 30w_c and 30w_c--.

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-80 without prejudice and add the following claims: